

# **SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET**

## **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services**

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Lowell. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.*

### **Residents of the City of Lowell**

#### **Characteristics of Admissions**

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2.3% (2,820) of these admissions reside in the City of Lowell. 2.6% (74) of admissions from the City of Lowell were under 17 years of age.

**Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the City of Lowell reported the following characteristics:

- 74.1% (2,089) were male and 25.9% (731) were female.
- 63.6% (1,794) were between the ages of 21-39.
- 65.7% (1,853) were white non-Latino, 2.6% (74) were black non-Latino, 25.8% (728) were Latino, and 5.9% (165) were other racial categories.
- 66.1% (1,865) were never married, 11.1% (313) were married, and 22.8% (642) reported not to be married now.
- 40.6% (1,144) had less than high school education, 44.4% (1,253) completed high school, and 15.0% (423) had more than high school education.
- 21.8% (615) were employed.
- 20.5% (579) were homeless.
- 27.3% (769) had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Primary Substance of Use**

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Lowell.

<b>Table 1</b>					
<b>Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002</b>					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	30%	58%	6%	3%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

#### **Substances Used in Past Year**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 2</b> <b>Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002</b>							
City of Lowell							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	2,760	2039	757	1112	913	1243	763
<b>FY '96</b>	2,584	2,006	701	941	733	1,197	779
<b>FY '97</b>	2,869	2,080	837	990	734	1,489	1,078
<b>FY '98</b>	2,996	2,059	825	962	576	1,782	1,249
<b>FY '99</b>	3,232	2,218	985	1,043	593	1,811	1,368
<b>FY '00</b>	3,072	2,032	855	984	472	1,794	1,415
<b>FY '01</b>	3,206	2,003	882	1,005	436	1,941	1,408
<b>FY '02</b>	2,820	1,742	771	728	316	1,740	1,275

### **Heroin and Injection Drug Use**

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Lowell and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

